

Anarchist Worker

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It's a Fare
Fight!

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10p

Wante — fists on the table!

IN SEPTEMBER the TUC will be meeting in Brighton. A number of left parties are planning marches and lobbies. The Workers Revolutionary Party and its youth organisation, the Young Socialists, will be lobbying on Thursday, September 9, while the Right to Work Campaign, in which the International Socialists have overwhelming influence, will be staging a march from London to Brighton for September 7.

Both the events point to growing opposition to the Labour Party and the TUC, yet both fall short of a real, revolutionary threat to their policies.

The Labour Party and the TUC have shown themselves in their true colours.

The memory of July 26 is still fresh in our memories, when the TUC gave in to the Government and the bosses over the AWU dispute.

These are some of the questions we should be asking ourselves—how many union branches have discussed resolutions beforehand?

How many of the delegates are directly elected?

The outcome of the conference can be predicted to a great extent.

Once again the nodding of the head to rising unemployment, to cuts and more cuts.

A minority of delegates will be opposed to these policies of class collaboration, some in sincerity and with the backing of the trade unionists they represent, others to preserve their 'left face'.

In this climate inside the labour movement it is fairly clear that one thing must happen if the working class is not to get a worse bruising than it has already received.

The class collaborationist leadership must be broken and ground to dust by an intensification of grass roots activity.

Unity

The crucial point in the destruction of the sell-out bureaucrats is the unity of the struggles in isolated factories, dock queues and estates.

Unity of rank and file activity must be built on a class basis.

This is a fundamental question. It cannot be achieved without raising the question of social power: that is, who controls society at the moment and who must control it in the future.

Neither can this unity be achieved independently of local struggles. Working class unity will have to grow out of hundreds of local experiences linking together first in the neighbourhood then on national and international levels.

In some ways the left manoeuvres in Brighton express to a degree this rejection of class collaboration. But at the same time they mystify and mislead.

The WRP-YS lobby calls for the

guarantee of jobs — but how can there be such a guarantee when capital is not prepared to and cannot provide it?

They call for the working class to force the Labour Government to resign, to be replaced by one pledged to socialist policies.

They do not call for the organisation of rank and file movements to fight Labour or Tory administrations and their masters the ruling class.

Instead they perpetuate a myth that somehow the Labour Party as a whole can be propelled leftwards.

Such a slogan is extremely dangerous and can if it is followed lead to more defeats for working people.

The Right to Work march and the lobby on September 7 will be a more successful attempt to unify dissatisfaction over the cuts and unemployment.

It avoids the trap of 'forcing labour in a left direction' yet it too is trapped inside reformist and defeatist slogans.

Some of the demands of the campaign come out against class collaboration but demands such as compulsory retirement at 60 are 'acceptable' solutions.

The very slogan around which the campaign is built is the question of how work can be provided by a system, when it's forced by its internal contradictions to slash jobs left, right and centre.

Even the Right to Work campaign, despite its much-vaunted successes, campaign mobilises The Right to Work—fail to question the nature of work itself.

It fails to bring up the question of even basic socialism, let alone the concept of workers' self management has failed to attract significant numbers.

At this stage it is all-important to build a revolutionary alternative to the class collaborators and the inadequate campaigns in opposition.

Alternative

The Claimants Union raised the 'Fight to Live' demands.

So far, it has been unable to organise an effective way against unemployment; it has attracted none virtually, and its campaign hasn't 'congealed' at all.

It's time for libertarian socialist revolutionaries, and all those who have profound criticisms of the Right to Work' campaign, to mobilise around a Fight to Live campaign.



Photo: Andrew Ward (Report)

This campaign has to be one that can effectively fight unemployment and the cuts...and ask revolutionary questions at the same time.

A campaign that can promote mass activity and self-managed struggles, not detract from them or undermine them.

This campaign has still to be built and it will be difficult to build, but it must be done.

It can be built around real living struggles, like rent strikes, occupations and fights against fare, food, gas and electricity increases.

It can mobilise around concrete grass roots opposition to the cuts and

reductions in work forces.

FIGHT TO LIVE!

P.S. We welcome debate in AW on building this campaign. So please send contributions (not more than 1,000 words and preferably typed or clearly written) to 13, Colman St, Hull.

Fishguard Police Seizure

PAMPHLETS seized by the Special Branch from Cardiff solicitor, Chris Short, have now been returned but, Dyfed-Powys police have refused to give Mr. Short any explanation as to why they were confiscated in the first place.

Altogether four publications, a copy of the AWA paper, then called the *Libertarian Struggle*, a copy of *Peking Review*, a report by Amnesty on allegations of prison brutality in Northern Ireland and a Communist Party pamphlet on Ulster, were taken from Mr. Short's car as he was passing through Fishguard en route for the Republic of Ireland.

Mr. Short, who was going to Eire with two friends for a holiday said, "The car was completely turned over."

Personal belongings were also ransacked by police officers who also subjected Mr. Short to extensive questioning about his political affiliations.

Mr. Short told us, "One officer searched the inside of the car, a second went through the boot, a third searched the engine compartment, while a fourth just walked around."

"When they took the pamphlets they said they did not allow that sort of thing into Ireland."

"Why were they censoring the stuff anyway? All the pamphlets are legal in Britain and, if they're not in Eire then surely it's a matter for the Irish police and not the British Special Branch", said Mr. Short.

On returning to Fishguard a few days later, Mr. Short presented his complaint and asked for his property back.

He was told, however, that it had been sent to Scotland Yard.

Mr. Short threatened that he would take legal action against the police if his belongings were not given back.

Some weeks later, Mr. Short was told by Scotland Yard that his belongings had been sent back to

Dyfed-Powys Police HQ in Carmarthen from where he could now claim them.

He contacted Dyfed-Powys Police and later that day an officer travelled from Carmarthen to Cardiff to give them back.

What surprised Mr. Short was that he was asked to sign a receipt for the property that also included a statement to the effect that he proposed no further action against the police.

"I refused such a condition," Mr. Short told us, "and it was only after consultation with his Inspector that the officer agreed to accept a straightforward receipt."

Mr. Short also said, "I subsequently wrote to Dyfed-Powys Police asking why my belongings had been seized in the first place."

"I have had a reply offering apologies for the inconvenience but the police have not offered me any explanation at all."

ABORTION CUTS

ABORTION IS under attack again. The select committee set up in February 1975 to consider the James White Bill has made new recommendations.

They are the work of anti-abortionists as all the sympathetic MPs resigned from the Committee in protest against the built-in majority of entrenched anti-abortionists retained when it was reconstituted in February 1976.

The rationale for the recommendations is to 'tighten up on abuses'. In fact they are a response to the right wing pressure to restrict abortion from the Catholic Church, the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, Life and so on.

The Committee wants these recommendations made law and intends to make a further report. There are fourteen points in all which are summarised below with some idea of their likely effect:

1) Reduction in the time limit for abortion to 20 weeks.

If fatal viability is taken as the basis for deciding on this time limit, then its reduction could continue even further.

Disadvantage

A small percentage of abortions take place after 20 weeks and this proposal hits those already at a disadvantage - the schoolgirl afraid to tell anyone, the working class women who can't afford the private clinics if refused by the NHS.

2) Licence and control of all fee-charging agencies providing abortions or even just advice.

No criteria are laid down; this could mean anything.

3) Financial separation of charitable referral agencies and nursing homes.

No criteria are laid down; this could mean anything.

4) One of the two doctors who gives consent for the abortion must have been in practice for five years, and they must not have a common financial interest in the same nursing home or agency.

No other medical operation is treated like this and it would also hit the charitable sector.

5) More stringent requirements for non-resident women trying to get an abortion.

A particular threat to women from Eire where the sale of contraceptives is illegal.

6) Increase in police powers to search clinics, advisory services and pregnancy testing centres, and to confiscate records.

7) Compulsory anonymity for witnesses who have had or been advised on abortion.

This would facilitate malicious prosecution of more liberal doctors.

8) Wider police powers to prosecute and heavier fines.

9) Acts done with intention to terminate a pregnancy, if such exists must be notified in the same way as abortions.

This could include menstrual extraction, dilation and curettage operations and even the coil - who knows?

These proposals will make abortion still more difficult to obtain and

probably increase. In 1969 roughly 60% of all abortions were done on the NHS; in 1974 only 33%: the total number of abortions notified doubled.

We must defend the existing 1967 act but that is not enough.

Only FREE ABORTION AS THE WOMAN CHOOSES, provided by the NHS can end the profits of private clinics.

Daycare abortion facilities will enable abortions to be carried out early in pregnancy.

Women need a real choice between free abortion and adequate support to have and bring up children. We have neither, and what facilities there are are under attack from both the James White proposals and the cuts in the Social Services.

We must organise NOW to prevent these recommendations getting through parliament.

There will be a National Abortion Campaign Planning Meeting on September 4 at the Co-op Education Centre, Heathcote Street, Nottingham.

person and violence against property, but that otherwise it should be left undefined".

If this were made law, police could enter a workplace and break up an occupation if the management told the police they were being attacked or intimidated.

Management always face intimidation in an occupation when the workforce asks them to leave the factory.

The TUC believe that trespass is not involved because workers have a 'licence' to be in the workplace.

This licence only exists "for the purposes of working for their employer". They lose the licence if they are occupying.

Most occupations involve taking over the management's offices - to get to the switchboard, for files. Trespass is involved.

Sometimes workers have to occupy from outside their workplace, and this too involves trespass.

The TUC decision not to oppose this proposal goes against the motion adopted at the last TUC Congress which called for factory occupations "to be treated as accepted forms of industrial action with immunity from legal proceedings".

This is just like the way they have capitulated with their stable mates, the Labour Government, to the needs of capital, accepting cuts and more cuts, and unemployment.

They are trying to paralyse the rank and file, who may go further than the bureaucrats want them to go.

In ignoring the other proposed offences, they show their blindness to events outside the workplace, their fear of militancy, their sectional interests and their intention of helping the 'divide and rule' game of the boss class.

It's important to build a real opposition to the criminal trespass proposals at the grassroots level, an opposition based on action.

Only firm, united, opposition - workers, students, squatters organisations - can defeat the Bill, and, as CACTI say, it could outline the campaign and be vital to the success of future struggles.

David Higgins

TUC SELL-OUT ON TRESPASS

The TUC oppose a 'securing entry by violence'.

The Law Commission's definition of the offence is "to use or threaten violence for the purpose of securing entry to premises on which another is occupying or in possession".

They say that violence should "include both violence against the person and violence against property, but that otherwise it should be left undefined".

If this were made law, police could enter a workplace and break up an occupation if the management told the police they were being attacked or intimidated.

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The British Pregnancy Advice Service and the Pregnancy Advisory Service use profits from their nursing homes to subsidise their referral agencies and to help women who can't afford fees.

These organisations are filling a vital gap in abortion facilities which should be covered by the NHS.

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Law Threat to Direct Action

THE Government has accepted the Law Commission's report on 'Conspiracy and Criminal Law Reform'.

It will come before parliament as a Bill this autumn.

The Law Commission sought to reform the conspiracy laws so as to make them more manageable.

This would create loopholes, one of which would be that 'trespass would no longer appear before criminal courts because the police would now be required to intervene as conspiracy would now be ruled out'.

Trespass would be tried before a civil court.

The worthy members of the Law Commission say that these amendments were of the political sort - squatters, people occupying workplaces and colleges, and demonstrators occupying embassies as a protest.

So they started working round the clock to stop this loophole.

They and their masters were worried about increasing amounts of militancy and direct action - squatting on a large scale.

They brought their final report out in March. Included was the formulation of five specific offences.

These were to deal with, as the Law Commission said, the taking over of homes by squatters while people were on holiday, the violence likely to be used in occupations and evictions, and the guarantee of safety against all at a protest.

They produced no evidence to prove that holiday squatting took place.

What they did produce were vague and ambiguous proposals that need not necessarily be limited to squatters.

Two of the offences are possession of weapons, universities and colleges, 112 of the High Court and 26 of the County Courts were planned to be used against squatters.

These proposed offences are open to a number of interpretations.

The first means that the police can enter a house without a warrant and arrest people for the possession of any innocent object - a breadknife, a spanner.

The other offences will mean that any court officer can call the police to his assistance and the most passive form of resistance will be a crime.

If these proposals are made law, then squatters will face most of it.

But there is every chance that such laws will be used against occupants of factories, universities and colleges.

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Street theatre on the February 28 CACTI demonstration.

Since then they have been used against students and workers.

Students at North East London Polytechnic occupying against the cuts were served with No. 112 and earlier they had been used at Warwick University and Cardiff University.

Workers' students and squatters must unite against the law and attempt to stop them getting through.

The Campaign Against a Criminal Trespass Law (CACTI) is organising united resistance and they have groups in all parts of towns and cities.

For information write to CACTI, c/o Boston Street, London SE11. Tel: (011) 269 3871.

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SQUATTERS SERVICE IN CRISIS

THE ADVISORY SERVICE for squatters is in grave financial danger and may not be able to survive beyond the end of this month.

They urgently need money.

ASS used to receive a grant from Shelter, but this was cut off in May 1975, after that organisation became more interested in parliamentary lobbying than direct action.

Since then, six volunteers have been running ASS, but even without paid workers, £1,600 a year is needed if it is to operate effectively.

ASS performs a great service to squatters. They have helped over 2,000 people since the withdrawal of the grant.

Of these many have found squats

directly through ASS or have been sent on to local squatting groups.

Others have been helped over the cutting off of gas and electricity supplies and when they are taken to court over possession orders.

ASS has often supplied McKenzie Advertisers in court and has put together a legal defence file, which can be used by squatters facing eviction.

Tenants, homeless and families waiting temporary accommodation from council sometimes use ASS.

Headbook have been distributed by ASS and it is now preparing a new edition.

The number of homeless and the number of empty properties are still rising.

Not surprisingly, there will be an

increase in squatting as a result.

But at the same time, the attacks on squatters through the Criminal Law may be passed, threatening squatters' citizenship as a group.

The hiring by landlords of thugs to evict squatters has the courts to be on the increase, while the police in some areas are being sent out to charge people of burglary and interfering with the police.

Please send us how you can afford to help. Write to: CACTI, c/o Boston Street, London SE11. Phone number is (011) 359 8814.

Anyone planning a house party should fundraising should also get in touch.

A new ASS poster is also available at 30p.

A Squatter

Lies Answered

THE Squatters Action Council (SAC) has produced a pamphlet containing the dossier of anti-squatting lies and 'The Squatting Charter'.

They list the categories of anti-squatter lies that have appeared in the papers:

- squatters steal people's homes while being rehoused
- they prevent 'genuine' homeless from being rehoused
- they operate
- providing children to single people to prevent them from families and get housing from councils.
- they break up
- they break up

Examples are given of how these stories are used against people squatting GLC properties.

Tony Judge, the chairperson of the GLC, threatening squatters' citizenship as a group.

The stories are used to divide and rule, to blame squatters for the housing problem and help give the proposed Criminal Trespass Law an easy passage.

The dossier will be presented to trade unions, local Labour parties, students and the housing movement with a view to setting up a labour movement enquiry into the stories.

Write to SAC for details c/o 25, Pauls Road, London N1. Tel: (011) 359 8814.

Billy Williams

POLLUTION, PROFIT AND PEOPLE

SOMEWHERE IN ITALY—As most people, who are reading this paper, know, there was an explosion recently. But why all the fuss? Seveso is a small town in Italy, close to the city of Milan. An explosion occurred in the Seveso factory, owned by the giant Hoffmann La Roche Corporation.

The safety valve blew on a reactor and 4½ lbs.(2.3) of a deadly poison was released over the surrounding countryside.

This poison is known as TCDD, or dioxin. It is one of the most deadly poisons known to science.

It was dispersed over the entire surrounding area, hanging in a cloud, or falling in showers of rain. Pets and farm animals began to die suddenly. Children and adults began to blither and become feverish.

Yet the management kept quiet about the poison leaked into the air for over two weeks.

They knew the great danger that the local people faced. As well as dioxin, trichlorophenol had been released into the atmosphere.

It attacks the human system, affecting the heart, kidney, spleen, and brain. It can cause cancer, and mutations in body cells, leading to the birth of deformed babies.

The management kept quiet because they were afraid a shut-down of the plant would effect their profits.

And meanwhile, people continued to eat meat and vegetables contaminated by the poisons—killing this contaminated food in Milan as well.

Rain has spread the poisons over a wide area. It seeped into rivers in the area, rivers which flow into the biggest in

Italy, the Po.

Dioxin cannot be removed or dissolved. That's why every building in the area is to be destroyed.

At first the government wanted this done straightaway, but now it may be three years before this can be done as the dust rising during deconstruction would still be highly dangerous.

Burning

One foot of topsoil in the district will be removed and incinerated.

All the vegetation must be burnt at 1,000°C and 570 acres must be walled in and made into a no-man's land.

Every animal in the area must be put down and their carcasses burnt. The management only revealed the danger after Seveso workers had gone on strike to demand what was happening.

The disaster happened because of profit. The management hushed up the affair because they were thinking about their profits. They deliberately skimped safety conditions to save money.

This disaster could have happened anywhere. In Flixborough, the big explosion occurred because of appalling safety conditions.

The same goes for nuclear power plants throughout the world. Bradwell, for example (see AW27).

or BIBLIS in W. Germany, where a number of leakages have taken place. There are rumours circulating that a number of workers have been taken to hospital suffering from radiation effects.

The BIBLIS firm, RWE, are hushing up the affair. They plan to increase the plant's storage for spent fuel elements, thus increasing the dangers if an accident happened.

Solution

What is the answer to all this? One of the first things to be seen is that the local people and workers in the plants have no control over what happens to them.

Do you remember Aberfan in 1966, when a huge slag heap came crashing down on a Welsh village? The people there had been worried for some time about the slag heap, but there was nothing they could do.

The National Coal Board in London decided everything. In the short term, it is important that local actions be started by workers to fight for better safety conditions, and the appointment of safety officers for every factory.

Local environmental groups should attempt to contact workers in chemical factories and nuclear power stations to find out how much of a risk is involved.

There is no real solution to these dangers except in the long term. This means the running of industry by workplace councils in consultation with councils in the neighbourhood.

It means working out safety precautions, making sure the chances

of explosions and pollution are reduced to the minimum. It means the dismantling of many industries based on the manufacture of harmful chemicals, often used, like napalm and dioxin, for attacking civilian populations in times of war.

New methods of technology can be worked out, making use of wind and solar power.

All this will be in consultation with and referring back to the councils, who will constantly review the situation.

The present system runs on profit. It doesn't care what harm is done to the population, the countryside, the rivers and the seas.

Already some scientists believe that the present drought and heat wave are caused by pollution. There is an accumulation of non-degradable products, lead residues—especially as a result of lead in petrol—pesticide residues and toxic additives in food.

Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased by 25% in the last 100 years—it may well double by the end of the century.

There will be vast, but rewarding, work ahead in collectivising

transport, making full use of the waterways and railways again. Free public transport could be provided, phasing out the need for most of the millions of motor cars belching fumes into the air.

Investigations into forms of propulsion other than the internal combustion engine could be carried out.

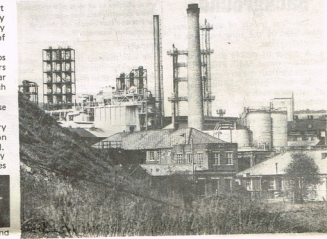
AWA members have a lot of criticisms of Murray Bookchin, the American libertarian (see his book *Post Scarcity Anarchism*, Wildwood House) but we must agree with him when he says:

"The cities must be decentralised to serve the interests of both north and south ecology. Urban gigantism is devastating not only to the land, the air, the waterways, and the local climate, but to the human spirit."

All this means the destruction of capitalism, and the creation of a free socialist society.

This may seem like a glib statement, but there can be no other solution to the ever increasing danger of pollution, and the threats not just local populations, but the very existence of humanity.

Eve Long



Coilite, Oils and Chemicals Ltd., at Bolsover near Chesterfield, Derbyshire, the only factory which makes the same chemical as the chemical plant at Seveso from which a dangerous poisonous cloud recently originated. It has been closed down by the Government.

Photo: John Sturrock (Report)

exploitation. These struggles must be seen as complementary to each other, and revolutionaries must expose the

fallacies of Mohammedanism at the same time as they fight the attacks of racists and fascists.

Liht.

And this is the third point of gay centres.

It has to be a place where people can get drop in and chat, have a social scene without being ripped off, meet and share ideas and work.

Where you centralise resources to produce leaflets and posters, write, type, print, share skills and tasks.

Make contacts with local papers, publicists, take up campaigns, work with other liberation groups involved in struggle against the change one another and the world.

Each of us alone is totally oppressed, and small groups of us together can be crushed but a growing force of people working together can change one another and the world.

If this is all that gay centres are about then why have we come under attack? It is a simple answer, added to by stereotypes, shows the strength of male fear and irrational hatred of homosexuality.

Because of the threat it poses to heterosexuality, and by extension, to the power of the dominant group.

And you have the opportunity to work out all the problems of human relationships in a non-patriarchal way.

But things together isn't enough. It is concentrated on your internal relationships—investing in the self, and the self becomes individual, bitchy and destructive.

We need to move out, and this is the second point of a gay centre.

With the strength of your own group you can live with other gay people, you can go out into the working world and discover what it's like to work with women in the centre, over the desk, on the bus and on the street.

But everyone you meet, gay and non-gay, isn't all the same, and we need the same time and the strength of liberation in our something which comes like mine.

What is the question is why do we do it?

It is important that local actions be started by workers to fight for better safety conditions, and the appointment of safety officers for every factory.

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Eve Long

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And this is the third point of gay centres.

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Local environmental groups should attempt to contact workers in chemical factories and nuclear power stations to find out how much of a risk is involved.

There is no real solution to these dangers except in the long term. This means the running of industry by workplace councils in consultation with councils in the neighbourhood.

It means working out safety precautions, making sure the chances

of explosions and pollution are reduced to the minimum. It means the dismantling of many industries based on the manufacture of harmful chemicals, often used, like napalm and dioxin, for attacking civilian populations in times of war.

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Thousands Resist Tube Fare Increases

IT WAS just another bright sunny day. The drought was progressing nicely. People were packing themselves off to work, London Transport (LT) had just raised their fares 25%, everything was normal.

But wait — was that thunder approaching? A freak rainstorm? Was the complacent serenity of the drought going to be threatened?

No, but just as serious, the passengers flooding through the underground tunnels were fighting back.

The date, 18 July 1976, was host to an historic event.

Oxford Circus, bastion of LT's power, was hit by a veritable deluge of angry passengers wielding a new weapon — the *Fare Fight* deferred payment slip.

Hundreds of people, incensed at the new fare rises, had risen up that morning, paid 10p on entering the tube system and on reaching their destination had defiantly handed in their ticket plus a slip offering to pay the difference if LT chose to collect.

Trevelling on the tube would never be quite the same again.

Background

The first trickle of activity was stimulated by the announcement of impending rises.

A group of people got together, called themselves **FARE FIGHT (FF)**, and thought out the strategy.

No more barren talking, enough of sterile theory — this time something was going to be done.

Labour GLC election promise: to hold fares for a year, then reduce to a cheap underground service.

RESULT — 118% rise in 18 months, four times the rise in the retail price index.

The deferred payment slips were printed in books of 25, and an introductory leaflet produced (with a special tear-away slip).

Groups of people were contacted all over London who were willing to boycott the stations the night before the rises were due to come into force.

Operation Open A Credit Account With London Transport was launched.

Meetings

After the initial publicity splash and following wave of interest in the campaign, FF dug in for a long

The argument over the fare rises, and London Transport's arrogant attitude, makes one thing very clear.

The LT Executive, and the Greater London Council that control the purse strings, are answerable to no-one but the ruling class.

Part of Labour GLC election manifesto: as the gradual lowering of fares towards a free service.

And LT has consistently ignored the wishes and needs of both the passengers and the workers who actually run the system.

Transport unions have made several protests over the decline in the service and the fare rises, and are at present making clear their opposition to the Government's Consultative Document on transport, which proposes expanding private enterprise road transport at the expense of the railways.

The only way of running public transport in a way that would benefit everybody would be through a system of joint passengers and workers committees.

The Anarchist Workers Association strongly supports *Fare Fight*, a campaign that attempts to impose working people's decisions and the criterion of social usefulness on a public service.

important jobs hived out.

(Rising Free, 142 Drummond Street, NW1, Thursdays 8pm)

Not for FF though, the centralised committee, the orders from above to the masses — FF make do with a modest co-ordinating group, elected from an early Thursday meeting.

It's understood that if any of the group don't do what they're meant to, or exceed their mandate they'll be replaced.

The jobs are due to be rotated to different people in the not to distant future.

As far as I'm concerned this open structure is as important as the action that a FF's trade mark.

People have been involved at a level previously unknown to me (a victim of countless campaigns), and there has been a steady stream of ideas, comments and criticisms.

There are now moves for people involved in a particular area to London to gather their resources together, people, presses, ideas and cars, etc., to organise their own printing, flyposting — their own activity under the general banner of *Fare Fight*.

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KEN POPE, London Transport's Chief Public Relations Officer, said in the first week of the campaign that only seven slips had been handed in on the first day of the fare rises.

The following week he was forced to admit that this was a lie, but the figure was still "less than a thousand" he claimed.

Faced with figures that *Fare Fight* has obtained from ticket collectors, among which were Gordon Town with over a thousand slips in four days, LT dropped numbers and instead referred to "a great number of slips".

Flowing, the direction is being discussed by the people involved.

It was recognised right from the beginning that transport workers' and Trades Councils' support was essential if FF was to progress from an annoying drip on LT Board's paternalistic palate, to a raging torrent that would threaten to sweep them away.

Accordingly, great efforts have been made to involve LT staff.

The Board has been trying hard, through public statements and internal circulars, to re-enforce the traditional barriers of 'us and them'.

FF has countered by encouraging users of the scheme to point out to staff the threat to their jobs and conditions of continuous fare rises, and has produced leaflets especially aimed at ticket collectors.

Trades Councils are being approached for support and branch meetings of individual *Fare Fighters*.

are having motions of support put to them.

FF has affiliated to the London Federation of Fight the Cuts Committees and there will be a FF meeting soon devoted to the question of cuts generally.

After all, LT has been subjected to a £17 million cut in subsidy and has been told to "break even" — cuts

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TOM DONNIN, a tube guard on the Central Line, told Anarchist Worker:

I support the *Fare Fight* campaign. When I first heard about it, I thought 'Great, some action at last'.

It's obvious that these continuous fare rises can't go on, especially with the Labour Government's 4% per cent wage limit.

I'm not just passengers who're affected though. Because the GLC has told London Transport to break even, when LT finds it's losing money due to the fare increases driving so many people off the tubes, the ticket collectors and operating staff's conditions of work will worsen. I'll be employing fewer men. I'll be employing fewer women. I'll be employing fewer men. I'll be employing fewer women.

I hope this campaign succeeds, uniting passengers and workers. I hope people start questioning the conditions on the tube — how dirty, unhealthy and boring they are to travel and work on.

For example, it wouldn't be difficult to put in some proper ventilation if the priorities were right. Passengers complain about the fumes and the lack of air, but just think what it's like for us guards.

We're down here for up to four hours at a time.

MANY *Fare Fight* campaigners would like to see a free public transport system. Is this an unrealistic dream?

Already Nottingham and Milan have adopted free transport, and Budapest has a flat rate of one florint (2p) on its underground.

London Transport receives a subsidy of some £200 million. A large proportion of this is spent on issuing and collecting tickets and accounting.

An undisclosed sum has just been spent, not on improving the service, but on installing a more foolproof (and slower) system of ticket barriers.

It would undoubtedly be cheaper to dispense with this whole apparatus, and transfer ticket collectors, sellers and inspectors to building, repairing and running trains and buses.

This would be a far better use of existing resources, leading to a more efficient and frequent public transport system.

This is the opposite direction from that of London Transport's policies, which must inevitably result in a decline in use — and thus a cutback in services and staff.

The choice is clear — expensive and infrequent tubes and buses with congested roads; or a free, clean, efficient public transport system.

WE DON'T WANT AN UNDERGROUND TAXI SERVICE!

Oxford Anarchists are proposing a libertarian conference on racism and in particular its interrelations with political analysis.

Hopefully, this will involve coping with political analysis relevant to the present situation. The importance of theoretical differences will be revealed not only in interpreting historical differences but through divergent conclusions in practice. The conference is proposed for November.

For more information, please write to: I. Gallagher, 38 Hurst Street, Oxford.



IN ITALY's massive protest against fare increases began when the bus workers' union at the first picket.

This spread quickly throughout Italy. In some places, people prevented buses that were still charging the increased fare from running.

Within a short time bus companies were forced to reduce fares. *Fare Fight* plans to bring an Italian bus worker to England this Autumn to talk about the campaign, as part of a national conference on direct action.

To: LONDON TRANSPORT EXECUTIVE Date: _____

I have today travelled from _____ to _____ and rendered a ticket for _____/p/ Should you wish to recover the outstanding sum, my name and address is:

Name: _____ Address: _____

Signed: _____

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Anarchist Worker

RIGHT IN THE



The Eye is now threatened with suppression.

James Goldsmith, the millionaire boss of Slater-Walker, has issued 93 writs against it, following an article in the Eye which named him in connection with the suicide of one Dominic Elwes. (Elwes also alluded to Goldsmith — in his suicide note.) Goldsmith states that he is not intending to drive Private Eye out of circulation. This denial is plainly untrue.

Goldsmith has recently made an arrangement with several of the paper's distributors, withdrawing his writs against them on condition that they cease to handle the Eye.

In his fight against the paper, Goldsmith has sought financial help "from a score of handpicked millionaires" (Sunday Times 15.8.76).



He has also resurrected the rarely-used law of Criminal Libel under which journalists are liable to imprisonment.

Now if a character like Goldsmith were to use his immorally large wealth to suppress — say — the obscure publication of some Trotskyist or Maoist sect, it is probable that the left as a whole would mount a defence.

And yet most left-wingers seem to be quite unworried about what is happening to Private Eye. Why is this?

Grimes

The Eye has committed serious crimes in the view of many leftists. It refers, improperly, to the fact that various of the underables it attacks happen to be Jewish.

Of the paper's two named columnists, one — consistently left in viewpoint — is the ex-OPeR Claude

Cockburn. In the 1930's, under the pseudonym "Frank Piccaini", Cockburn published in the Daily Worker various untruths about the anarchists in the Spanish revolution — untruths which are described and refuted in Orwell's *Homage to Catalonia*.

The other named columnist, however, is A. Waugh, a rightist of the "What the lower classes simply don't realise..." variety.

On his TV programme, Waugh recently defended his occupation of a luxurious Somerset mansion with the argument that "Working class people wouldn't want to live here anyway. They couldn't afford the bills".

But Waugh's naivete (witness the above claim of his), and his use of shrill exaggeration as a substitute for wit, make him an unusually ineffective writer by Eye standards.

As a political influence, his Eye column can be ignored.

For many people probably the main sin of Private Eye is to have satirised the left, and to have done so with great skill.

The paper's 'Dave Spart' column is likely to have offended many socialists precisely because they have seen their own, and their comrades' faults reflected in it with such accuracy.

Spart parodies the confident, spurious, claims about imminent revolution ("One day soon the working class will... Cont p.94") which will be familiar to readers of the old Workers Press; compare also the prophecy implicit in the phrase, common on the left, 'late capitalism'.

Well parodied too is the inept verbosity of student leftists and others: ("Er, basically, the problematic of the situation is...").

The writer of this article has recently heard people at left meetings talking about 'specificities' (i.e. details), 'concrete perspectives' and 'the problem of tackling redundancy situations concretely'.

The weary exaggerations found in some left rhetoric ("totally fascist"), and the anxious attempts of people with workaholic to identify with the industrial working class, also get the 'Spart' treatment (Dave Spart is the General Secretary of the National Amalgamated Union of Sixth Form

Operatives).

Sins

How should we react to a paper which commits such sins? It's pretty unhealthy if we can't enjoy, or even tolerate, well-aimed jokes at our own — avoidable — faults.

More importantly, if we are serious about spreading our ideas among working people, then we had better know what the mistakes are which can sometimes make leftists appear ludicrous.

What is the probable reaction of working people, when they come to a left meeting for the first time, and hear the comrades talking about 'specificities', 'problematics', 'concrete perspectives' etc. etc.

Spart's column could be profitably used to diagnose some of our own faults.

"Yes, but what about the right-wing stuff in Private Eye?" the first place, there isn't much of it compared with the left-wing, or just anti-establishment, sections of the paper.

The longer, more solidly researched articles have been consistently left in intention and effect — and not only in the days when Paul Foot worked on the Eye.

There's also an important general principle at issue.

If we knew of a factory canteen, or a student union (or even a pub), where left-wing and anti-establishment views predominated, but where some right-wing stuff also got uttered (and such places have been known) and if some right-wing millionaire tried to close down the place entirely, we should probably have no doubt that the place would have to be defended — if necessary, wars and all.

The position of Private Eye seems very similar.

It is not the product of a single mind, with occasional right-wing excesses. It is the work of a collection of journalists who have conflicting views — and who are given an unusual 'freedom' to express them.

If Goldsmith gets his way, then we lose the only effective scandal sheet in the country — the paper which has exposed — among others Maudling, Lomho, Slater-Walker, Concorde and the National Front.

A few left-wingers with under-developed senses of humour may be glad to see it go. But there's no doubt as to who would feel the greatest relief if Private Eye were suppressed — the British ruling class.

A. Powell

(The writer of the above article wishes to make it clear that it contains his own, and not necessarily the AWA's, opinions. He also wishes to make clear his opinion that the paper is a valuable one. He is the Goldenball Appeal Fund, Private Eye, 34 Great Street, London W1.)



LIBERTARIAN SOCIALIST DISCUSSION MEETINGS

to be held at Gay Centre, 19 Redmans Road, London E1, all meetings on Thursdays at 7.30pm

September 16
REVOLUTIONARY ANARCHISM

September 30
THE UNIONS

October 14
THE LEFT

October 26
UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE CUTS
— HOW TO FIGHT THEM

November 11
THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT
AND SEXUAL POLITICS

convened by East London AWA

Anarchist Transport Workers
contact ADAM 01-247 4529

Spain

Anarchists and libertarians in prison in Spain need assistance.

Please send donations to:
c/o Comité Pro-presos, 87 rue de Patis, 75013, Paris France.

WOMEN & EDUCATION

Practical approaches to non-sexist teaching and learning. 10am-5pm, Saturday October 2, registration £1.50 for unpaired students, includes costs of reports from day.

— Open to men and women —

Register with: Women & Education Group, c/o 4 Cliffe Drive, Crumppall, Manchester 8.

CALLING ALL ANTI-RACISTS TO BLACKBURN LANCE

March & Rally, Sept 11

STARTING AT 2pm FROM BROOKHOLME LANE, WHALLEY RANGE AREA, TO RALLY IN KING GEORGES HALL AT 3pm

The fascists have publicly stated we shall not be ALLOWED to march. They have promised "Blood in the streets". We will march — with a mass turnout.

Organised by Action Against Racism (AAR)

Women in Media Seminar on the Sex Discrimination Act

Saturday October 23

Bedford College, Regents Park

Register with Women in Media, 13 Elgin Crescent, London W11

AWA OPEN DAY SCHOOL, AWA OPEN DAY SCHOOL, AWA OPEN DAY SCHOOL

The State and Workers Power

covering the Marxist and anarchist theories of the state and their application in the revolutions of this century.

Saturday October 23, 10am-6pm
O.S.A. Rooms
Leeds University Union

for more details ring Leeds 757961

LABOUR'S POLICIES IN THE N.H.S.

A pamphlet from the National Co-ordinating Committee against Cuts in the NHS.

It contains detailed information on when and how the cuts in the NHS are taking place and their likely effects.

For example, 7,000 beds have been lost in South London through hospital closures. In Dorset, cancer patients had to wait up to six weeks for operations, allowing tumours to spread.

Available from NCC-NHS, 55, Bridge Lane, London NW11. The NCC-NHS is also appealing for any further information on the cuts, and campaigns against them. They will also provide copies of their petition against the cuts.

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